

Emerson Legislative Update – May 2003

BILL OFFERS BETTER STAFFING FOR NURSING HOMES

Every day, Michigan families face difficult decisions about whether to move a loved one into a nursing home. A bill recently introduced in the Senate would require that the staff-to-patient ratio not fall below one care provider to 15 nursing home residents during any 24 hour period. This legislation would also require that there be at least one registered professional nurse or licensed practical nurse on duty at all times.

SENATE PASSED CEMETERY CARE ENDOWMENT FUND PROTECTIONS

The Senate recently passed a package of bills that clearly define how a cemetery must use money secured in endowment care funds. The bills specifically describe uses of the fund for maintenance, improvement, and beautification of the cemetery grounds. The bills amend the Cemetery Regulation Act to more specifically define the uses of endowment care and perpetual care funds for cemetery upkeep and maintenance.

Under these bills, endowment care means all general work necessary to keep the cemetery property in a presentable condition at all times. This includes grass-cutting, raking, cleaning, seeding and sodding of graves, as well as replacement, pruning or removal of shrubs and trees in order to assure access to interment rights.

REGISTRATION FOR “DO NOT CALL” LIST BEGINS THIS SUMMER

After a three year struggle, a bill providing the public with protection from telemarketers was finally signed into law last December. Congress recently followed Michigan’s lead with the adoption of its own “do-not-call” bill. This means that, beginning in July, consumers will be able to register, free of charge, to have their names added to a registry which is intended to prevent most telemarketing phone calls.

MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

The Senate has dedicated May as Military Appreciation Month in the state of Michigan. Senators acknowledged the sacrifices and dedication of our military personnel to preserve freedom and democracy both here and abroad. Other officially recognized days honoring the military in May include: Loyalty day, Victory in Europe Day, Military Spouse Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day.

SENATE HONORS MOTT C.C. MEN’S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

A resolution was recently passed by the Senate to honor the Mott Community College men’s basketball team for their victory in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Basketball Tournament. The M.C.C Bears defeated Lackawanna College of Pennsylvania to give the Flint team its first-ever national championship. Senator Emerson and the Senate plan to host the national champions in Lansing to present the resolution to the coaches and team.